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Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 USIE-00 DODE-00
EB-08 NSAE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 /077 W
----------091035Z 084021 /15
O R 090630Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9584
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0574

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BC, UK, US
SUBJECT: BOTSWANA PURCHASE OF AR-18 RIFLES

REF: 76 GABORONE 2322, B. STATE 009031

1. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER ELEANOR EMERY CAME TO SEE ME MARCH 8
IN A RATHER DEPRESSED MOOD TO REPORT ON LATEST EXTREMELY DIAPPOINTING
DEVELOPMENT REGARDING THE US/UK ARMS AND AMMUNITION SHIPMENT.

2. AFTER REVIEWING BRIEFLY THE HISTORY OF THE GOB PURCHASE OF
US/UK ARMS, MISS EMERY STATED THAT BOTSWANA POLICE COMMISSIONER
HIRSCHFELD RECENTLY INFORMED HER THAT 300 (OF THE 400) RIFLES HAVE
ARRIVED AS WELL AS BLANK AMMUNITION. HIRSCHFELD REMARKED, HOWEVER,
THAT THERE WAS NO LIVE AMMUNITION. MISS EMERY REPORTED THIS
INFORMATION TO LONDON AND RECEIVED A REPLY STATING AS FOLLOWS:
(A) THAT CROWN AGENTS, ACTING ON BEHALF OF BOTSWANA IN ARRANGING
ARMS SHIPMENT, HAVE CONTACTED U.S. MANUFACTURER OF AMMUNITION;
(B) THAT U.S. MANUFACTURER STATED THEY HAD "JUST RECEIVED
EXPORT LICENSE FOR LIVE AMMUNITION"; (C) THAT U.S. MANUFACTURER
EXPECTED TO SHIP AMMUNITION "TO THE UK IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS".
FOREIGN OFFICE MESSAGE TO MISS EMERY COMMENTS THAT ABOVE
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INFORMATION FROM CROWN AGENTS "CONTRADICTS WHAT U.S. STATE
DEPARTMENT"TOLD THEM EARLIER.

3. MISS EMERY'S CONCERN IS ON SEVERAL GROUNDS: FIRST, THAT
THIS WILL APPEAR TO BE CONFIRMATION THAT THE UK AND U.S. ARE
PURPOSELY HOLDING BACK ON ARMS SHIPMENTS BECAUSE OF "DISTRUST"
OF GOB; SECOND, THAT DELAY WILL BE FURTHER SEEN AS EVIDENCE OF

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US/UK INABILITY TO RESPOND TO ARMS REQUESTS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL BY GOB.

4. MISS EMERY'S IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS HOW TO RESPOND TO HIRSCHFELD'S QUESTION AS TO WHY NO LIVE AMMUNITION HAS BEEN RECEIVED. IN THIS CONNECTION, SHE WONDERS WHY THE SHIPMENT OF AMMO WOULD BE VIA THE UK, AS REPORTED BY CROWN AGENTS.

5. COMMENT: MISS EMERY IS WITHHOLDING RESPONSE TO HIRSCHFELD PENDING RECEIPT OF SOME COMMENT FOR US. WOULD APPRECIATE URGENT ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND EARLIEST POSSIBLE STATUS REPORT ON SITUATION REGARDING THIS ILL-FATED ATTEMPT BY GOB TO OBTAIN ARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM U.S. AND UK. WE REMAIN VERY PUZZLED BY THE AOVE IN LIGHT OF INFORMATION IN REF B THAT EXPORT LICENSE FOR 70,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION HAD BEEN ISSUED JANUARY 13.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMMUNITION, SMALL ARMS, PROCUREMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770080-1084
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770379/aaaacrhf.tel
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SAS ID: 3165100
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOTSWANA PURCHASE OF AR-18 RIFLES
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BC, UK, US, (EMERY, ELEANOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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